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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE AUG 2006

Applicant:

Kazuhiro Shimura

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Examiner:

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents. P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within any of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of First Office Action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements); or
- (c) before the mailing of a First Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continuing Examination.

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of foreign patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

A copy of the International Search Report is enclosed.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R.§§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

Chicago, Illinois 60606 Telephone: (312) 360-0080 Facsimile: (312) 360-9315 Customer Number 24978

300 South Wacker Drive - Suite 2500

Patrick G. Burns, Reg. No. 29,367

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Sheet 1 of 1 Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Attorney Docket No.: 4386.75777 Serial No.: (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office Applicant: Kazuhiro Shimura INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) Filing Date: 08/24/2006 Group: **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** Examiner Filing Date Initial* Document Number Date Name Class Subclass If Appropriate 6,304,172 Oct. 16, 2001 Katou et al. FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Translation Document Number Date Country Class Subclass Yes No 2000-158923 Jun. 13, 2000 Abs. Japan Will 2-18568 May 24, 1990 Japan follow 10-126129 May 15, 1998 Japan Abs. 2002-190707 Jul. 5, 2002 Japan Abs. 8-46414 Feb. 16, 1996 Japan Abs. OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) Examiner Date Considered *Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.